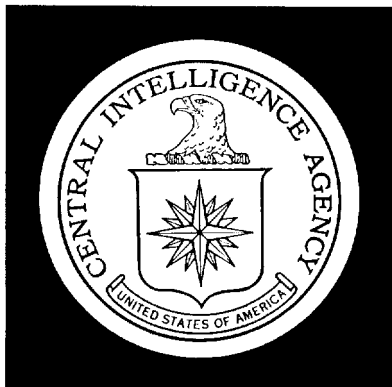


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State Dept. review completed

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Bolivia: Military discontent is growing rapidly.
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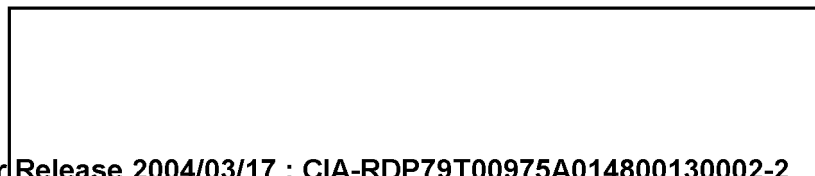


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Bolivia: Military discontent with the Ovando government is growing rapidly, and coup rumors are beginning to circulate.

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[redacted] has told State Department officials that there is extensive dissatisfaction, particularly among officers who worked closely with the late president Barrientos. [redacted] talk of a coup is increasing. Barrientos' former associates are primarily concerned with leftist and nationalistic trends in the government, and they want to return to the old policies, including close relations with the US.

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[redacted] said that another group, composed of Armed Forces Commander General Juan Jose Torres, Minister of Government Lieutenant Colonel Ayoroa, and Minister of Mines Quiroga, would like to remove Ovando to assure that the radical trend in government policies continues. This group reportedly was instrumental in the nationalization of the US-owned Bolivian Gulf Oil Company.

These opposing points of view may give Ovando enough latitude to pursue a middle course and play one group against the other. Ovando, however, has not demonstrated that he is particularly adept at political maneuvering, and the situation could degenerate into a series of coups and countercoups.

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India - North Vietnam: External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh has told a parliamentary committee that India would not raise the level of its representation in North Vietnam immediately, but would do so when the "situation was ripe," [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Meanwhile, India will try to increase cooperation between the two countries. Singh reiterated his argument that closer relations with Hanoi would be in India's best interests and would help reduce Chinese influence there.

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